

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A medical device, comprising:

a ~~hollow~~ housing having an aperture in a wall of the housing, the aperture ~~forming~~ defined by a rim;

a first needle having a sharpened tip, ~~the first needle~~ operable between an extended position in which the sharpened tip is exposed for use and a retracted position in which the ~~needle~~ sharpened tip is shielded against inadvertent contact;

a biasing element biasing the first needle toward the retracted position;

a needle hub ~~having a cylindrical body~~ axially displaceable ~~within the housing~~ between a forward position in which a portion of the needle hub is within the housing and a rearward position in which the portion of the needle hub is outside the housing, the needle hub ~~having~~ comprising:

a central bore for receiving the first needle; ~~wherein the needle is fixedly attached to the needle hub, the needle hub further comprising~~

a first connector ~~adjacent the rearward~~ at an end of the hub, ~~the first connector~~ configured ~~for providing a fluid-tight~~ to provide a fluid-tight connection between a fluid line and the first needle;

an actuator configured to cooperate with the rim of the housing to releasably retain the first needle in the extended position against a bias provided by the biasing element, wherein the actuator is configured to be moved out of cooperative engagement with the rim, thereby permitting the bias provided by the biasing element to transition the needle hub to the rearward position;

a forward stop configured to cooperate with the housing to impede forward axial movement of the needle hub when the needle hub is in the rearward position; and

~~a radially deformable arm attached to the needle hub and projecting radially outwardly from the needle hub; and~~

~~an actuator disposed at the end of the arm releasably engaging the rim of the locking aperture and having a surface directly manually operable from outside the housing, wherein depressing the actuator releases the needle whereupon the biasing element displaces the needle hub into the rearward position;~~

~~a locking flange projecting radially outwardly from the needle hub, axially spaced from the latch of the needle retainer; and~~

~~a locking latch lip projecting radially inwardly from the wall of the housing, wherein the latch lip is configured to engage cooperate with the locking flange of the needle hub to impede rearward axial movement of the needle hub is displaced into beyond the rearward position; and~~

~~a forward stop operable to impede forward axial movement of the needle hub after the needle hub is displaced into the rearward position, wherein the forward stop is deformed radially as the needle hub is displaced from the forward position to the rearward position;~~

~~wherein the biasing element has a biasing force between an upper limit and a lower limit, the lower limit being defined by the amount of axial force required to effectuate radial displacement of the forward stop during retraction and the upper limit being defined by the amount of axial force required to overcome the engagement between the locking latch and the locking flange, and the bias of the biasing element.~~

2. (currently amended) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the a forward edge of the actuator forms the forward stop.

3. (currently amended) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising a pair of substantially planar wings connected to the housing, the wings projecting ~~radially~~ outwardly from the housing~~[[,]]~~ and being displaceable ~~radially~~ about the a longitudinal axis of the housing.

4. (currently amended) The medical device of claim 3, wherein at least a portion of the wings are disposed forwardly of the aperture in the housing.

5. (currently amended) The medical device of claim 1, wherein a majority of the needle hub is disposed within outside the housing when the needle hub is in the forward rearward position.

6-8. (cancelled)

9. (currently amended) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the rearward end of the housing has an opening that is larger than ~~the cylindrical a~~ body of the needle hub and smaller than the ~~locking flange~~ of the needle hub such that in the rearward position, the needle hub ~~projects rearward~~ extends through the opening.

10. (currently amended) The medical device of claim 1, further comprising:

a fluid line connectable with the first connector, the fluid line comprising a second connector;

a second hollow housing connectable with the second connector, the second housing having a generally open rearward end for receiving a specimen container that is sealed by a pierceable seal; and

a second needle attached to the second housing and having a sharpened tip projecting into the interior of the second housing, the second needle operable to pierce the pierceable seal.

11. (currently amended) A method for drawing fluid from a patient, the method comprising ~~the steps of:~~

providing the medical device of claim 10;

~~inserting the first needle into the patient;~~

attaching the fluid line to the first connector;

attaching the second connector to the second housing ~~to the fluid line;~~

~~providing a needle seal sealing the second needle to prevent blood from flowing through the second needle;~~

~~depressing the actuator to displace the needle into the retracted position;~~

~~providing a specimen container having a pierceable seal; and~~

inserting the first needle into a patient;

inserting ~~the~~ a specimen container that includes a pierceable seal into the second housing so that the second needle pierces the pierceable seal; and ~~and the specimen container is in fluid communication with the needle, wherein the step of inserting also pierces the needle seal allowing fluid to flow from the patient into the specimen container~~

moving the first needle to the retracted position.

12. (currently amended) The method of claim 11, further comprising ~~the steps of:~~

withdrawing the specimen container from the second housing;
providing a second container having a pierceable seal; and
inserting the second specimen container into the second housing so that the second needle pierces the seal of the second specimen container and the second specimen container is in fluid communication with the needle.

13. (new) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the actuator is recessed relative to an outer surface of the housing when the needle hub is in the forward position.

14. (new) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises a deformable arm configured to move from a retaining position in which the actuator cooperates with the rim of the aperture in the wall of the housing to an actuated position in which the needle hub is permitted to transition to the rearward position, wherein the actuated position is closer to a longitudinal axis of the needle hub than is the retaining position.

15. (new) The medical device of claim 14, wherein the actuator is at an end of the deformable arm.

16. (new) The medical device of claim 14, wherein the biasing element has a biasing force between a lower limit and an upper limit, the lower limit being defined by an amount of axial force required to effectuate inward displacement of the actuator due to interaction between the actuator and the lip of the housing during transition of the needle hub from the forward position to the rearward position, the upper limit being defined by an amount of axial force required to overcome the cooperation between the lip of the housing and the flange of the needle hub to impede rearward axial movement of the needle hub beyond the rearward position.

17. (new) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the biasing element has a biasing force between a lower limit and an upper limit, the lower limit being defined by an amount of axial force required to effectuate inward displacement of the actuator due to interaction between the actuator and the lip of the housing during transition of the needle hub from the forward position to the rearward position, the upper limit being defined by an amount of axial force required to overcome the cooperation between the lip of the housing and the flange of the needle hub to impede rearward axial movement of the needle hub beyond the rearward position.

18. (new) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the actuator comprises a surface that is directly manually operable from outside the housing.

19. (new) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the portion of the needle hub that moves outside of the housing when the needle hub moves from the forward position to the rearward position comprises the forward stop, and wherein the forward stop cooperates with an outer surface of the housing to impede forward axial movement of the needle hub when the needle hub is in the rearward position.

20. (new) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the forward stop is configured to move outside of the housing when the needle hub transitions from the forward position to the rearward position, and wherein the forward stop is configured to move inward such that it is closer to a longitudinal axis of the needle hub as the needle hub is displaced from the forward position to the rearward position and is configured to move outward relative to the longitudinal axis of the needle hub when the needle hub is in the rearward position.

21. (new) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the actuator of the needle hub is outside the housing when the needle hub is in the rearward position.

22. (new) The medical device of claim 1, wherein the flange projecting outwardly from the needle hub is spaced from the forward stop of the needle hub such that a portion of the housing can be received between the flange and the forward stop when the needle hub is in the rearward position.